

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05 ACDA-12 COME-00

HA-05 /087 W

-----007692 031419Z /47

O R 031320Z MAY 78

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2908

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAW

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS DURBAN 0276

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJ: SECURITY POLICE REPORTEDLY BREAK UP ANOTHER ANC
TERRORISM NETWORK

REF: A. 77 DURBAN 591 B. CAPE TOWN 808

1. ACCORDING TO MAY 3 "EXCLUSIVE" "NATAL MERCURY" ARTICLE
BY CRIME REPORTER LEON MELLET, SECURITY POLICE RECENTLY CAPTURED
SEVERAL ANC TERRORISTS AND SEIZED LARGE QUANTITIES OF RUSSIAN-
MADE ARMS, EXPLOSIVES, AND DOCUMENTS NEAR DURBAN AND IN OTHER
PARTS OF NATAL DURING FORAYS SIMILAR TO MID-1977 RAIDS ON
ANC-S.A. COMMUNIST PARTY TERRORISM NETWORK IN NATAL AND
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TRANSVAAL (REF A). REPORT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PICTURES OF
CAPTURED WEAPONS, MOST OF WHICH, IT CLAIMED, HAD HARDLY BEEN
USED. DURBAN SECURITY POLICE COMMANDER COL. HERMAN STADLER
TOLD PRESS HIS MEN HAD WORKED "LONG HOURS" ON CASE AND HAD
MADE A "BREAKTHROUGH IN TRACKING DOWN THE TERRORISTS", WHO
WERE IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF UMKHONTO WE SIZWE, THE ANC'S
MILITARY WING. HE DECLINED TO DISCLOSE NUMBER ARRESTED,

BUT SAID THERE WERE "QUITE A FEW".

2. BRIGADIER C.F. ZIETSMAN, HEAD OF SECURITY POLICE, TOLD PRESS RAIDS FOLLOWED SIMILAR ARRESTS ALONG COUNTRY'S BORDERS AND IN OTHER AREAS DURING RECENT MONTHS. HE STATED MANY OF MEN CAPTURED HAD BEEN TRAINED OUTSIDE S.A. AND MANY MORE WERE RECENT RECRUITS. MAJORITY OF ARRESTS WERE BY SEPCIAL POLICE UNITS ALONG SWAZILAND, BOTSWANA, AND MOZAMBIQUE BORDERS. ZIETSMAN NOTED THAT MORE THAN 200 PERSONS HAD BEEN CONVICTED IN RECENT YEARS ON VARIOUS TERRORISM CHARGES, ANOTHER 140 WERE PRESENTLY BEING TRIED, AND MANY OTHERS WOULD BE BROUGHT TO RIAL IN NEAR FUTURE. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT COOPERATION BY LOCAL BLACKS, WHO REALIZED THAT THE ANTI-S.A. WAR BEING WAGED BY THE ANC "WAS NOT AIMED AT WHITES ONLY", HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING POLICE FIGHT TERRORISTS.

3. ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE BY MELLET, WHOM SOURCES DESCRIBE AS A HARD-NOSED, CONSERVATIVE AFRIKANER REPORTER WHO HAS RECEIVED CLOSE COLLABORATION FROM POLICE IN PAST, SUMMARIZED ANC TRAINING METHODS AND STRATEGIES. ACCORDING TO MELLET, MOST TERRORISTS ARE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS WHO ARE RECRUITED LOCALLY AND THEN TRAINED ABROAD AND IMBUED WITH "KAMIKAZI FANATICISM" BY EAST GERMAN, CUBAN, AND RUSSIAN INSTRUCTORS. WOMEN ARE ALSO ALLEGEDLY NOW BEING TRAINED TO BE COURIERS OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT INFORMERS, TO SET UP TERRORIST BASES, AND TO SMUGGLE MONEY OUT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO SEIZED DOCUMENTS, MAJOR AIM OF TRAINING IS TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES THROUGH INFILTRATING AND INFLUENCING TRADE UNIONS, UNIVERSITIES, CHURCHES, AND "LEGAL ANTI-RACIST ORGANIZATIONS". ONCE THE PEOPLE ARE PREPARED, THE DOCUMENTS STATE, AT A GIVEN DATE ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND VIOLENCE WILL TAKE PLACE NATION-WIDE IN A BID TO SCATTER THE SECURITY FORCES. THIS WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY A MASS TERRORIST INVASION AIMED AT WRESTING POWER FROM THE WHITE MINORITY AND LIBERATING SOUTH AFRICA.

4. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT FAILURE OF MILITARY WING TO ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS SO FAR BECAUSE OF DETERMINED POLICE WORK (REF B) HAS CAUSED POLITICAL WING TO DEVOTE ITSELF TO DESTRUCTION OF SECURITY POLICE AND ANYONE COOPERATING WITH THEM. ARTICLE QUOTES ANC DOCUMENTS URGING CAPTURED TERRORISTS TO HARASS POLICE, REFUSE TO COOPERATE DURING INTERROGATIONS, USE LEGAL AND ILLEGAL METHODS TO THWART LEGAL PROCESS, AND COMMIT SUICIDE RATHER THAN BETRAY THE ANC. MELLET CITED SHOOTING OF SECURITY POLICEMAN LEONARD NKOSI LAST YEAR AND ATTACKS ON TERRORISM TRIAL WITNESSES AS PROOF OF ANC ANTI-POLICE CAMPAIGN. NOTING THE ANC CLAIM THAT NINETY PERCENT OF ITS PROPAGANDA COMES FROM LEGAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE PRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE ARTICLE

IMPLIED THAT ACCUSATION THAT THE SECURITY POLICE TORTURE AND MURDER POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ARE A "GESTAPO-TYPE" FORCE ARE PRODUCTS OF THE ANC CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THEM.

5. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH INTERVIEW WITH ZIETSMAN DEFENDING SECURITY POLICE, STATING THEY TRY TO BE AS HUMANE AS POSSIBLE AND TO BRING PRISONERS TO TRIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, ZIETSMAN STATED, "WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH ORDINARY CRIMINALS BUT WITH POLITICALLY AND MARXIST-ORIENTED PEOPLE BENT ON VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF RULE IN THIS COUNTRY. THE LAWS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE TO ENABLE US TO PERFORM OUR DAILY TASKS ARE OFTEN CRITICIZED. WE OURSELVES DON'T ALWAYS LIKE SUCH LAWS BUT THOSE WHO HAVE DECLARED WAR ON US ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE LAWS. CRITICISM DIRECTED AGAINST US WE CAN TAKE BECAUSE WE KNOW WHERE IT COMES

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FROM. OBJECTIVE CRITICISM IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED AND WE ARE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT WE DO MAKE MISTAKES. WE WILL NOT HIDE MISTAKES, BUT WE WILL LEARN FROM THEN".

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